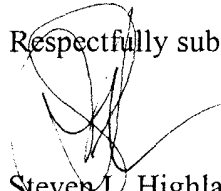


REMARKS

Applicants are submitting the preceding amendment to claim 1 in order to further clarify the claimed invention. Support for the amendment may be found throughout the specification, for example, at page 9, lines 7-8, and page 57, lines 18-20. A marked-up copy of the amended claims is attached as Appendix A.

No fees are believed due; however, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from Fulbright & Jaworski Deposit Account No. 50-1212/10100385/SLH.

Respectfully submitted,


Steven L. Highlander
Reg. No. 37,642
Attorney for Applicants

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.
600 Congress Avenue, Suite 2400
Austin, Texas 78701
(512) 536-3184

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APPENDIX A: MARKED UP COPY OF CLAIMS

1. A method for assessing protein folding and/or solubility comprising:
 - a) providing an expression construct comprising (i) a gene encoding fusion protein, said fusion protein comprising a protein of interest fused to a first segment of a marker protein, wherein said first segment [does not affect] has only systematic effects on the folding or solubility of the protein of interest, and (ii) a promoter active in said host cell and operably linked to said gene;
 - b) expressing said fusion protein in a host cell that also expresses a second segment of said marker protein, wherein said second segment is capable of structural complementation with said first segment; and
 - c) determining structural complementation,

wherein a greater degree of structural complementation, as compared to structural complementation observed with appropriate negative controls, indicates proper folding and/or solubility of said protein.